

## A NEW FAMILY OF LEPIDOPTERA.

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In his revision of the Australian Gelechiadae (these PROCEEDINGS, 1904, p. 435) Meyrick described the genus *Thalamarchis* at the end of that family, but had apparently some doubt as to the correctness of its position there. He wrote: "this genus appears to stand quite isolated, and I am unable to see that it bears any near relationship to any form known to me. In its large size and conspicuous colouring it resembles an Oecophorid of the *Philobota* and *Hypercallia* groups, and since the palpi and neuration also agree, it might be thought to be really akin to them, but the hindwings considerably exceed the forewings in breadth, and the antennae of male are quite without ciliations; the combination of these two prohibitive characters seems to me conclusive. The structure of vein 2 of the forewings, which is not widely remote from 3, removes the species from the Xyloryctid group. It accords well with the family characters of the Gelechiadae, but is discordant in every group of that family, and I am compelled to regard it as representing an early unspecialised branch; perhaps other allied forms may be discovered in West Australia."

The genus does not appear in his revisions in the Genera Insectorum of the Oecophoridae (1922) and of the Gelechiadae (1925), and *Thalamarchis* appears to be now an unassigned genus. I propose to make it the type of a new family, and to associate with it three hitherto unnamed genera. This small family is known only from Western Australia. It is probably related to some early forms of Oecophoridae, and less closely with the Gelechiadae, as a side-branch, which has not developed much, and may have become largely extinct.

## Fam. THALAMARCHIDAE, nov.

Head smooth-scaled with moderate erect side-tufts. Tongue developed. Labial palpi long, ascending, recurved, acute. Maxillary palpi minute. Antennae without basal pecten; in male simple. Forewings with 7 and 8 stalked, 7 to termen. Hindwings much broader than forewings ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2); 3 and 4 connate, 5 from below middle of cell, 6 and 7 widely separated at origin, parallel or diverging, 12 more or less approximated to cell for some distance.

## Gen. THALAMARCHIS.

Meyr., P.L.S.N.S.W., 1904, p. 435.

Antennae about three-fourths. Palpi very long; second joint much exceeding vertex, moderately thickened with smoothly appressed scales; terminal joint four-fifths, slender. Posterior tibiae densely clothed with long hairs. Forewings with 2 from shortly before angle, 3 and 4 approximated from angle. Hindwings with 12 closely approximated to cell to about middle, 5 from about middle.

## THALAMARCHIS ALVEOLA.

*Cryptolechia alveola* Feld., *Reis. Nov.*, Pl. 140, f. 35.—*Thalamarchis alveola* Meyr., P.L.S.N.S.W., l.c., p. 436.

Western Australia: Albany, Margaret River, Waroona, Perth, York, Yanchep, Mogumber, Geraldton, Cunderdin.

Gen. *PSILOSCELES*, nov. (*ψιλοσκελης*, with smooth tibiae.)

Antennae about four-fifths. Palpi very long; second joint about 3 times length of face, slender; terminal joint as long as second. Posterior tibiae smooth with a few hairs on dorsum at apex. Forewings with 2 very oblique from about three-fourths, 3 and 4 approximated from angle. Hindwings with 5 from below middle, 6 and 7 widely separated at origin, thence diverging, 12 closely approximated to cell to about middle.

Rather closely allied to *Thalamarchis*; the points of difference being of minor importance, with the exception of the origin of 2 in the forewings, which suggests some relation, probably distant, to the *Xyloryctidae*.

*PSILOSCELES DICHOCROA*, n. sp. (*διχοχρους*, double-coloured.)

♂, ♀. 18–20 mm. Head and thorax dark fuscous. Palpi dark fuscous with two slender whitish side lines on anterior surface of second joint. Antennae fuscous. Abdomen fuscous with lateral ochreous streaks. Legs fuscous; anterior coxae, middle and posterior femora, and posterior tibiae except at apex ochreous-whitish. Forewings dilated before middle, costa strongly arched, apex subrectangular, termen obliquely rounded, dark fuscous; in male a slender whitish line on fold from base to near above tornus; in female this is obsolete, being represented by a few whitish scales only; cilia dark fuscous. Hindwings broadly ovate, termen sinuate; deep ochreous-yellow; cilia grey; bases dark fuscous.

Western Australia: Coorow in October; two specimens.

Gen. *PHILETES*, nov. (*φιλετης*, deceitful.)

Antennae about two-thirds.

Palpi with second joint reaching base of antennae, thickened with rough scales and expanded towards apex; terminal joint as long as second, slender. Thorax with a posterior crest. Posterior tibiae clothed with long hairs. Forewings with 2 and 3 connate from angle, 4 from well above angle. Hindwings with 5 from below middle, 6 and 7 separate, diverging, 12 approximated to cell, but not closely, to middle, gradually diverging.

The type species shows no resemblance to the two preceding, and might easily be mistaken for one of the *Xyloryctidae*, but for the neurulation.

*PHILETES MEGALOSPILA*, n. sp. (*μεγαλοσπιλος*, with large spot.)

♂. 24–30 mm. Head grey; side-tufts whitish. Palpi fuscous sprinkled with whitish. Antennae fuscous. Thorax fuscous-grey. Abdomen pale grey; tuft grey-whitish. Legs dark grey sprinkled with whitish and faintly tinged pink; posterior pair grey-whitish. Forewings elongate-oval, costa moderately arched, apex rounded, termen oblique; grey; a fine fuscous subcostal line from base to one-third, interrupted by whitish; a large oblong fuscous white-edged median spot with a short transverse fuscous mark just beyond; median third of costal edge pinkish; a suffused outwardly curved whitish line at two-thirds, cut by fine fuscous lines interrupted by whitish running into termen; cilia grey. Hindwings with termen rounded; dark grey; cilia grey.

Western Australia: Waroona in October; Perth in November; two specimens.

Gen. BLACOPHANES nov. (*βλακοφανης*, of sluggish appearance.)

Antennae about two-thirds. Tongue present but weakly developed. Palpi with second joint reaching base of antennae, thickened with smoothly appressed scales; terminal joint as long as second. Posterior tibiae hairy on dorsum. Forewings with 2 from angle approximated to 3, 7 to termen. Hindwings with 5 from below middle, 6 and 7 approximated at origin, gradually diverging, 12 moderately approximated to near end of cell.

BLACOPHANES PALLIDA n. sp. (*pallidus*, pale.)

♀. 35-38 mm. Head and thorax whitish. Palpi whitish sprinkled with pale grey. Antennae whitish. Abdomen whitish; apex and underside fuscous. Legs grey; posterior pair paler. Forewings suboblong, costa straight, apex rounded-rectangular, termen slightly rounded, slightly oblique; whitish sprinkled with grey; a discal spot at two-thirds and a terminal series of dots grey; cilia whitish. Hindwings and cilia whitish.

Western Australia: Perth (L. J. Newman); two specimens.